

## MESSAGE AUTHENTICATION

### ABSTRACT

A method of processing a message to determine a tag value from the  
5 message and from a key according to a message authentication code. The  
method including the steps of selecting one of a plurality of symbols, the  
plurality of symbols forming a codeword encoding a data item derived from  
the message, the codeword encoding the data item according to an error  
correcting code, wherein said key determines which one of said plurality of  
10 symbols is selected; and determining the tag value to be the selected  
symbol.